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## Natural Resources Division

Marion Johnson

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# NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

## NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION



SLA

Marion E. Johnson  
Chair

### From the chair

The Natural Resources Division participated in some excellent presentations during the Anaheim conference, thanks to the arrangements made by Barbara Rodes, the 1986-87 Division Chair, and her committees. Barbara worked very hard for the Division throughout her year as Chair, despite major surgery in March, and we all thank her for her efforts.

The Division's annual business meeting was held at noon Tuesday, June 9th. The full report, as prepared by our secretary Alice Solyma, will appear in the next issue of *Sci-Tech News*. However, I want you to know about two important issues which were discussed. It was agreed unanimously that Barbara Rodes would write to both the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, protesting the recent recommendations that the Natural Resources Library of the U.S. Department of the Interior be cut back in both its mission and funding. If you wish further information, please contact Barbara.

Another very important motion was presented and carried. This came about as a result of informal discussion with the Environmental Information Division at the joint open house Sunday evening at the conference. The motion reads as follows: that "the Natural Resources Division establish a committee to study the benefits, process and procedures, and possible resulting division structure (including possible roundtables), of merging with EID, and that represen-

tatives of this committee meet in Denver in 1988 with a separate EID study committee to draw up possible merger scenarios for their respective Division executive boards." Peter Evans, as our Division Chair-Elect, has agreed to head up this committee. He and his committee will contact Division members to poll their opinions regarding this merger. Please give some thought to this motion. Those of us who have been NRD members for many years remember when the Division split up, but it's difficult to remember why it was done.

The Forestry Roundtable, "Discussion of Global Climate Warming," as arranged by Ginger Rutherford and Linda Martinez, and chaired by Bob Stanton of Weyerhaeuser, provided an insight into this topic from the viewpoint of a meteorologist. (See Peter Evans' review of the presentation in this issue.)

It's not too early for members to start thinking positively about coming to Denver June 11-16, 1988, for the 79th annual conference. The theme is "Expanding Horizons: Strategies for Information Managers." It promises to be a very stimulating week. Natural Resources is co-sponsoring with five other divisions a major technical session on Monday, June 13, to be called "Energy and the Environment: Where Horizons Meet". There are to be presentations by subject specialists addressing the different aspects of this vital topic, and on Tuesday smaller roundtables are planned as follow-ups. There will be a joint field trip on Thursday and, of course, our Forestry/Forest products Roundtable on Tuesday afternoon. Speakers are tentatively arranged, and I will be able to tell you more about them in the next newsletter.

There are a great many research institutions and libraries in the Denver area, and I hope that we can have a large number of NRD members there to participate in these sessions. Please talk to potential Division members in your local Chapters and help our Membership Committee (Lynda and Barbara) in their efforts to make our Division grow.

You'll hear from me again about all of these plans.

## SLA Annual Conference Program June 9, 1987 Forestry Roundtable

This Tuesday afternoon session was chaired by Bob Stanton of Weyerhaeuser Timber Corporation. It consisted of a poster session and a program on global warming.

### Tappinet

Elizabeth Bibby from the Information Resources Center of the Technical Association for the Pulp and Paper Association, began the session with a discussion of a newly introduced information network available to members of the Association via CompuServe. TAPPINET has two components: 1) a collection of databases providing information on TAPPI membership by personal name, company name, geographic area, and a list of suppliers, TAPPI news, and similar information, and 2) an electronic bulletin board for individual messages, conference reports, etc. TAPPINET, available to the Association's 27,000 members in seventy countries, will provide wider and more timely access to TAPPI sources. A brochure describing the system is available. Write TAPPI, Information Resources Center, P.O. Box 105113, Atlanta, GA 30348-5113.

### Global Warnings

The program speaker was Professor Richard Somerville, a meteorologist from Scripps Institute of Oceanography. He provided a most interesting talk on the greenhouse effect as seen from the perspective of a meteorologist, not a politician or a news reporter. The difference was refreshing, at least to this writer. Professor Somerville said that there is no doubt that we are increasing the quantity of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, approximately one part per million per year, mostly from the burning of fossil fuels. There are increases in certain other trace gases, which also have an effect on the climate. Beyond this point, however, the issue becomes rather hazy.

We *think* global temperature will go up, possibly as much as three degrees Celsius in the next century, but there is no definite evidence at this time of a global temperature increase. Professor Somerville pointed out that we are talking of global measurements of a fraction of a degree, measurements that are extremely difficult to make. He also noted that global heating is unevenly distributed and that there are, and always have been, climatic perturbations owing

to a variety of natural forces. There are no political barriers regarding the international exchange of meteorological information, but there are other impediments to determining how much of the increase in carbon dioxide is man-made. These include the lack of original temperature measurements for most of the world in the last 130 years and the ocean's slow adjustment to global warming. Consequently, it is very difficult to tell what long-range global effects we are really witnessing. The potential in politics and news media coverage, however, is considerably easier to anticipate.

The talk was followed by a discussion period which touched on the effects of deforestation on carbon dioxide levels, possibilities for political action, and levels of communication within the field of meteorology.

In conclusion, our understanding of the greenhouse effect is developing very gradually. We are looking at data against a very "noisy" background, and there are varying degrees of urgency felt among qualified researchers. No sudden solutions are possible, but it is important that we remain vigilant.

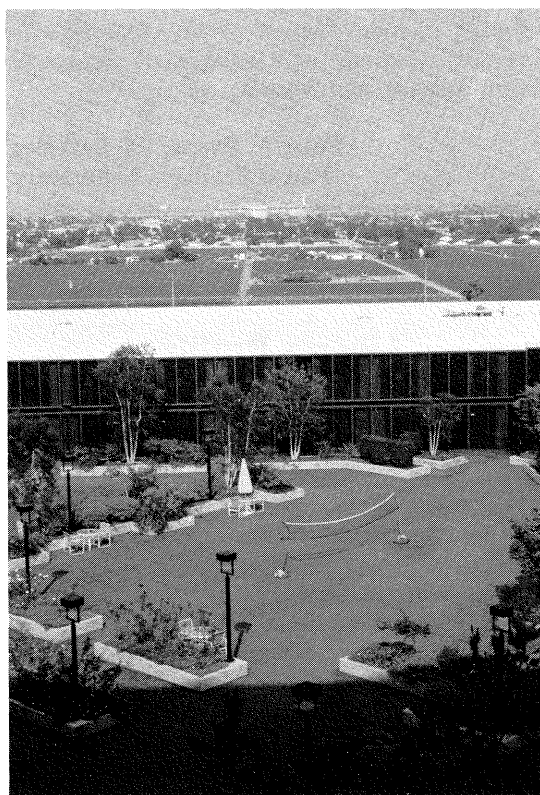


Photo by John Moore

*View from the Hilton with the strawberry fields in the background with Anaheim Stadium in the distance.*

## Sources

The Roundtable made a bibliography available, among which the following were particularly recommended:

*Changing Climate: Report of the Carbon Dioxide Committee.* 1983. National Academy Press, Washington, DC.

Postel, S. *Altering the Earth's Chemistry: Assessing the Risks.* 1986 Worldwatch Paper 71, Worldwatch Institute, Washington, DC.

Revelle, R. "Carbon Dioxide and the World Climate." 1982. *Scientific American*, v. 247, pp. 36-43.

Additional resources were mentioned in the discussion:

Cicerone, R. and R. Dickinson. "Future Global Warming from Atmospheric Trace Gases." 1986. *Nature*, v. 319, January 9, 1986, pp. 109-115.

U. S. Department of Energy. Office of Basic Energy Sciences. *Carbon Dioxide Research State-of-the-Art Report* series (DOE/ER-0235 through DOE/ER-0238).

Mintzer, Irving. *A Matter of Degrees.* 1987. World Resources Institute, Washington, DC.

Journals which frequently discuss global warming include *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*, *Journals of Geophysical Research*, *Tellus*, *Science*, and *Nature*.

**Peter A. Evans, UC Berkeley  
Forest Products Laboratory**

*Reports on other Conference events will appear in the next issue.*

## Library Profile

### Energy Information Services McKinsey & Company, Inc.

McKinsey & Company, Inc. is an international consulting firm that specializes in top-management problem solving and implementation for a broad range of corporate and, to a lesser extent, government institutions.

The firm was founded in the United States in 1926 and has grown steadily since. It now has 36 offices in 19 countries serving organizations in most industrial nations.

McKinsey has over 1,200 consultants worldwide, representing approximately 39 nationalities. The consulting staff is backed by more than 350 client service support staff including business analysts, specialists, and other professionals.

Except for a few, very small offices, each McKinsey facility has an Information Services Department or Library. These libraries cover general business subjects as well as specific subjects, depending upon the local clients of each office. Some offices also have special practices such as banking, telecommunications, consumer goods, or electronics. McKinsey's Energy Practice is centered in the Washington, DC, office and serves the energy information needs of the entire firm.

The Energy Information Services Department is part of the DC office's Information Services Department. This energy collection consists of 2,000 volumes, 100 periodicals and a large collection of subject files, company files, and FERC filings. An extensive collection of both bibliographical and statistical online databases are also available to the library staff.

The energy library staff consists of 2 librarians and 2 part-time assistants. Together they provide assistance to all Energy Practice members as well as other firm members requiring energy information. Requests for information are varied, ranging from quick information requests, such as spot prices to natural gas, to requests for long-term assistance developing an outlook for worldwide residual oil demand.

Several other McKinsey offices, including Houston, Dallas, Los Angeles, London, and Sydney have a large number of energy industry clients. The library staff of these offices work closely with the energy library staff in Washington to provide better service to firm members by offering the combined energy resources of all these offices.

The Energy Information Services staff enjoy the interaction with librarians in our other offices and the variety of information request that arrive continuously from our offices around the world.

**Terryann Toch**

## A Science Journalist's Information Management

A group of Washington, DC, "environmental and energy librarians" met for a brown bag lunch at AAAS Headquarters March 3. The speaker was Richard A. Kerr, a researcher and writer for *Science* magazine. Kerr, who happens to be married to a librarian, finds much of his work involves information management. He collects, organizes, stores and retrieves information to write a news story. Recently he has

written articles on El Nino, the volcanic lake in Cameroon, the "Greenhouse Effect", and nuclear test monitoring by the Natural Resources Defense Council. When we met, he was making preparations to write about what went wrong in forecasting Washington's infamous January snowstorms. (See "Man and Machine Forecast Big Snow," *Science*, v. 235, March 20, 1987, pp. 1460-61).

When researching a topic, Kerr, whose academic background is in chemical oceanography, aims at acquiring the maximum amount of information available, then "sees what falls out". He developed his files as the need arose with a significant source being old stories of his own. His office book collection consists mainly of discarded review copies, which are made available to AAAS staff once each week. He has his own subscriptions to about twenty periodicals including those of four major earth science organizations. He keeps telephone directories for the most pertinent organizations in earth and planetary sciences. In the AAAS Library he peruses additional periodicals, mostly popular or semi-popular, but also a few professional ones, primarily in search of people who can enlighten him about his current assignment. He photocopies the most important articles he finds and keeps them in 350 folders filed by subject A-Z in eight linear feet of cabinet space. He does not have an index or guide to these files, and it took him almost four years to go through the file once for weeding purposes. He was able to trim his collection of research reports from the National Academy of Sciences, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of Technology Assessment and other sources when AAAS moved into its new building in 1985.

Kerr also has a 4x6 card file of people by name, which is partially cross-referenced by subject. He maintains a computerized "tickler file" consisting of story possibilities he doesn't want to miss. He arranges and rearranges these by the approximate date he expects certain scientific developments to occur. Thus this file has the added attraction of testing his ability to predict the future.

Kerr admitted that most journalists do not develop their own resources to the extent he has. Most would simply have files of their own stories and necessary telephone numbers. As news writers they are usually ahead of printed literature on their subjects by about six months.

Kerr's readers are typically scientists but not always in the field about which he is writing. Most of his feedback comes from scientists in the same field who are usually high in their

respective hierarchies. 170,000 copies of *Science* are published; Kerr's goal is to keep the mail to a minimum of the usual three or four letters commenting on the most provocative of his articles.

**Sue Terry**  
**Natural Resources**  
**Division Editor**

## Natural Resources Division

### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Chair

Marion E. Johnson  
Forintek Canada Corp.  
6620 N.W. Marine Drive  
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1X2  
(604) 224-3221

#### Chair Elect

Peter Evans  
Forest Products Library  
University of California  
1301 South 46th Street  
Richmond, CA 94804  
(415) 231-9549

#### Secretary

Alice Solyma  
Pacific Foetry Centre  
506 West Burnside Road  
Victoria, B.C. V8Z 1M5  
(604) 388-0600

#### Treasurer

Elizabeth G. Close  
U.S. Forest Service  
Intermountain Experiment Station  
324 25th Street  
Ogden, UT 84401  
(801) 625-5445

#### Immediate Past Chair

Barbara K. Rodes  
World Wildlife Fund/Conservation Foundation  
1250 Twenty-Fourth St., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20037  
(202) 293-4800

Barbara will act as our "Government Relations" contact and will also continue to assist the Membership Chair.

### Membership Chair

Lynda Larsen  
Environmental Law Institute  
1616 P Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 328-5150

### Division Archivist

Mary Lou Stursa  
Steenbock Memorial Library  
Univ. of Wisconsin — Madison  
550 Babcock Drive  
Madison, WI 53706  
(608) 263-4581

### Bulletin Editor

Sue Terry  
World Resources Institute  
Suite 400, 1735 New York Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 638-6300

### Ad hoc Committee Chair

To study possibility of merging with EID.  
Peter Evans  
Forest Products Library  
University of California  
1301 South 46th Street  
Richmond, CA 94804  
(415) 231-9549

## Conference Announcement

### Restoring the Earth - 1988

The first national gathering to consider the restoration of all natural resource types and the re-visioning of human settlements will be held on January 13-16 at the University of California, Berkeley. The conference is organized by the Restoring the Earth project of The Tides Foundation, San Francisco, and cosponsored by the Center for Environmental Design Research, University of California, Berkeley. It will bring experts in natural resource management and planning together with a broad selection of academic, government, industry, foundation, labor, public health, and environmental representatives. Participants will help set the environmental restoration agenda for the future.

Topics to be covered include restoration of coastal ecosystems and estuaries; rivers and lakes; streams and fisheries; rangelands, prairies, mined lands, forests and wildlife; atmosphere and climate; dry lands and agricultural lands; redesign of human settlements; and control of

toxic wastes. Formal refereed papers will be presented at scientific and technical sessions. Non-technical sessions will include discussions of policy issues, legislation, litigation, conflict resolution, trends, and accounts of restoration successes. The program also includes keynote panels, plenary sessions, workshops, films, and exhibits.

Information is available from: Restoring the Earth Conference, 1713 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94709, or telephone (415) 777-9515.

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## Special Libraries Association Scholarship Program 1988/89

Up to two \$6,000 scholarships will be awarded by Special Libraries Association for the academic year 1988/89. The awards, to be announced in May 1988, are for graduate study leading to a master's degree at a recognized school of library or information science in the United States or Canada. Preference will be given to those applicants interested in pursuing a career in special librarianship. Awards are made without regard to race, sex, age, religion, or ethnic background.

*Special libraries* provide research and information services to business, industry, and government. *Special librarians* are men and women trained in the theory and practice of library or informational science as well as the fundamentals of a particular subject field. Specialists are needed in many organizations, among which are research institutes, newspapers, insurance companies, banks, law firms, hospitals and governmental agencies. Subject specializations may include the social sciences, economics, the fine arts, engineering, and the physical and biological sciences.

**Eligibility:** College graduates or college seniors with an interest in special librarianship. Work experience in a special library is helpful.

Citizens of the United States or Canada.

**Qualifications:** Definite interest and aptitude for special library work.

Good academic record.

Financial need.

**Applications:** May be requested by writing to:  
Special Libraries Association  
1700 18th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009

Applications must be completed and returned by October 30, 1987.